gation functions on the display of handheld device. These navigational keys can include the connect and disconnect keys as mentioned herein as well.

[0041] Referring now to FIG. **2**A, one example of the navigation tool **128** includes a 4-way navigation button configuration with or without a centralized select key **110**. This type of navigational key arrangement allows the user to navigate a cursor **275** on the display screen **322** in addition to navigating forms, web sites and other cursor-navigable pages presented on the display screen **322**. Another type of navigational key arrangement, shown in FIG. **2**B, has an inner key surrounded by an outer ring. The inner key is used to make selections of items that have been user-designated on the display screen **322** of the handheld electronic device **300**. The outer ring can function as a scrolling device wherein a clockwise rotation moves the cursor down the page displayed on the screen **322** on the handheld electronic device **300** and a counter-clockwise rotation moves the cursor up the page. In other exemplary embodiments, the scrolling can be implemented in opposite directions as well. Additionally, arrows or other indicators can be provided in the outer ring to provide left and right navigation in addition to rotation indicators.

[0042] The alphabetic key arrangements are useful when entering text, but they do not provide easy navigation within the application portion of the display screen **322**. Thus, a navigational key arrangement **285** is provided in other embodiments such as those shown in FIGS. **2**A and **2**B. These navigational key arrangements can be shown on the display screen **322** simultaneously with the alphabetic key arrangements or without the alphabetic key arrangements. When only the navigational key arrangement is shown in addition to the application running, a larger portion of display screen **322** can be devoted to the application running on the device **300**. The navigational keys can be implemented such that a centralized navigation key is located within a row of other navigational keys. The navigation key enables the user to direct cursor navigation on the screen **322** of handheld device **300**.

[0043] Referring to FIG. **2**A, the navigational key arrangement **285** as shown is separated from the alphabetic key arrangement **280** by a dividing line **287** and from the currently running application by line **289**. The navigational key arrangement **285** has a centralized navigation tool **128** that has directional keys to direct the cursor on the screen **322**. The top key **116** directs a cursor **275** in an upward fashion on the display screen **322**. The left key **114** directs the cursor **275** towards the left side of the display screen **322**. Likewise, the right key **118** directs the cursor **275** towards the right side of the display screen **322** and the bottom key **112** directs the cursor **275** towards the bottom of the display screen **322**. The center key **110** allows the user to make a selection of a user-designated item. In addition to the centralized navigation tool **128**, the navigation row has a connect key **106** to place and answer telephone calls, a menu key **107** which displays a menu associated with a given application page, an escape key **109** which returns to the previously displayed application page, and a disconnect key **108** which disconnects or terminates a telephone call. While these keys are shown in FIG. **2**A, other exemplary embodiments will not display the connect **106** and disconnect keys **108** unless the telephone application is running. Alternatively, the connect and disconnect keys **106**, **108** appear when a telephone call is received when running another application.

[0044] In another exemplary embodiment, when a telephone application is running or when the device **300** is operating in a telephone mode, a telephone key arrangement **282** is shown on the HTS display screen **322** of the handheld device **300** shown in FIG. **2**B. This telephone key arrangement is in the ITU standard phone layout as described above and with which users are familiar. In addition, a navigational key arrangement **285** is provided above the telephone key arrangement **282**. Similar to other navigation row arrangements, this navigational key arrangement **285** has a centralized scrolling navigation key **440**, a connect key **146**, a menu key **147**, an escape key **149**, and disconnect key **148**. The centralized navigation key **440** is one that allows the user to scroll through a list of items and select a user-designated item. The outer ring **442** of the centralized scrolling navigation key **440** allows the user to navigate in a single direction such as up or down. This can be achieved by the user placing their finger inside the ring and moving in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction. The select key **444** in the center of the outer ring **442** enables the user to select an item that was designated through the use of the outer ring **442**.

[0045] In addition to the keys presented on the display screen **322**, the handheld device **300** shown in FIG. **2**B has a programmable physical key **150** on the side of the device **300**. This programmable physical key **150** can be programmed to provide various functions relating to the handheld device **300**. For example, it could be used to switch between telephone and data/text modes of operation. In another embodiment this key **150** would function as a way to return to a home screen.

[0046] In still another embodiment, a processing subsystem is configured to be installed in a handheld device **300**, having capabilities for at least voice and email modes of communication, comprising an HTS display screen **322**. The processing subsystem servers as an operating system for the incorporating device **300**. The processing subsystem preferably includes a microprocessor **338** and a media storage device connected with other systems and subsystems of the device **300**. The microprocessor **338** can be any integrated circuit or the like that is capable of performing computational or control tasks. The media storage device can exemplarily include a flash memory **338**, a hard drive, a floppy disk, RAM **326**, ROM, and other similar storage media.

[0047] As stated above, the operating system software controls operation of the incorporating handheld device **300**. The operating system software is programmed to control operation of the handheld device **300** and is configured to transmit signals to a visual display that variously presents visibly different key arrangements as a function of the mode of operation of the incorporating device **300**.

[0048] Preferably, the handheld device **300** is sized for portable use and adapted to be contained in a pocket. In one exemplary embodiment, the handheld device **300** is sized to be cradled in the palm of the user's hand. The handheld device **300** is advantageously sized such that it is longer than it is wide. This preserves the device's **300** cradleability while maintaining surface real estate for such features as the display screen **322** or an optional keyboard **332**. In a development of this embodiment, the handheld device **300** is sized such that the width of the handheld device **300** measures between approximately two and three inches, thereby facilitating the device **300** to be palm cradled. Furthermore, these dimension requirements may be adapted in order to enable the user to easily carry the device **300**.

[0049] Further aspects of the environments, devices and methods of employment described hereinabove are expanded upon in the following details. The handheld electronic device